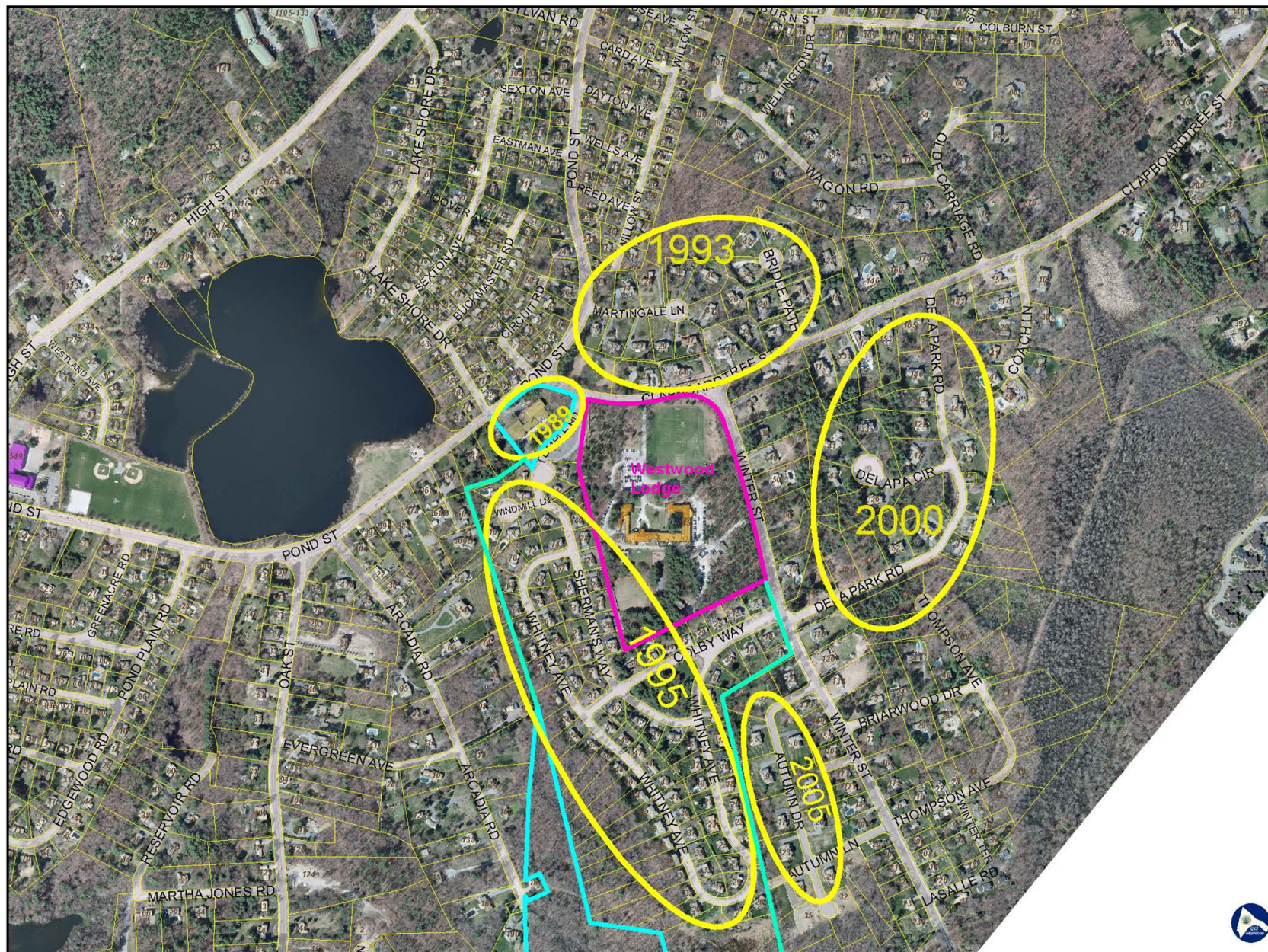


History of Westwood Lodge Task Force

Presented by Michael Jaillet, Town Administrator



Task Force Members

- Patrick Ahearn, Selectmen
- Michael Jaillet, Town Administrator
- Chief William Chase, Police Chief
- Chief William Scoble, Fire Chief
- Thomas McCusker, Town Counsel
- Danielle Sutton, Youth & Family Services Director
- Bill Schroder, Community Representative
- Gregory Brownstein, CEO Westwood Lodge
- Other members of the Westwood Lodge Staff
- Lizabeth Kinhead, *Director of Licensing Department of Mental Health**
- Representative Paul McMurtry*
- Senator Michael Rush*

*Recent additions

Accomplishments of the Task Force

- Increase the locks to the exterior doors
- Establishing a relationship between the administration of the hospital and Town officials
- Assign security responsibilities to members of the staff
- Establish procedures calling for and dealing with Town services
- Working to eliminate false 911 calls
- Installing a stockade fence along the border with Chase Estates
- Lease the soccer/lacrosse playing field to the Town
- Hosted a couple neighborhood meetings at the hospital

Issues Affecting Security:

- Manage health care coverage: increasing inpatient requirements and shorter stays
- Changed in ownership
- Changes in hospital CEO
- Turn over of hospital staff
- Multiple buildings (10) – requires patients to be outside

Summary

- Significant residential development around the hospital parameter has exposed more residents to escapes
- Changes in the health care industry has resulted in changes in the types of patients treated at the hospital
- Changes in ownership, the Executive Team and staff have made it more difficult to achieve a consistent effort in addressing the issues
- The campus type of setting with multiple buildings with several means of egress makes security more challenging than one building with a main entrance

Steps taken to address issues over last year

- Review and enhancement of locking systems
- Increase in fencing on exterior of the building
- Training for staff
- More selective of patients admitted
- Conducted an independent security study
- Design and bid the exterior fencing
- Limit outside time of all patients (recent)
- Enhance procedures for overseeing patients while outside (recent)

Next Steps the Hospital has committed to:

- Award bid to install fencing
- Obtain building permit
- Install fencing per plan
- Continue discussions on study recommendations
- Continue monitoring and enhancing security